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ESTONIA AND LATVIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 10 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of an appeal by the President of the Republic of Moldova, His Excellency Mr. Mircea Snegur, to the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and heads of State and Government (annex I) and the text of a statement by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova on the fate of the political detainee Ilie Ilascu, sentenced to death, and five other defendants, sentenced to long terms in jail by the so-called "Supreme Court" of the self-styled "Dniester Republic" (annex II).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the attached texts circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 114 and 115, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tudor PANTIRU
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of
Moldova to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Appeal made on 9 December 1993 by the President of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, and heads of State and Government

On 9 December 1993, the illegal judicial authorities of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Transdniestr Republic (a phantom State created on the territory of the Republic of Moldova) announced the verdict in the trial of the political detainees known as the "Ilascu group".

Ilie Ilascu was sentenced to death by shooting and the other detainees to periods of imprisonment of from 2 to 15 years, with confiscation of their assets.

Thus the separatist leaders from Tiraspol have concluded a tragic political and judicial farce organized and managed by them, arrogantly breaking the fundamental principles the world community stands for: democracy, justice, freedom and humanism.

The efforts made by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova, the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Council, parliaments and Governments, politicians and statesmen to bring to an end this quasi-juridical trial and to hand over the prisoners to the constitutional judicial bodies have been unsuccessful.

The execution of the sentence will mean nothing else but a premeditated, horrible and squalid crime that cannot be tolerated. To prevent this crime we request your urgent and insistent intervention in order to take adequate measures to prevent the execution of this illegal and inhuman sentence, and to facilitate the unconditional handing over of the detainees to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Moldova.

Mircea SNEGUR
President of the Republic of Moldova

ANNEX II

Statement issued on 9 December 1993 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova

With the citizen Ilie Ilascu having been condemned to death, the so-called "trial" in Tiraspol of the six patriots of the Republic of Moldova is over.

It was absolutely clear from the very beginning that this process was nothing else but a perfectly framed up, exclusively political farce, which is characteristic of the conflict in the eastern districts of the Republic of Moldova. It is actually a hot-blooded fight between the old and new, between two opposite social-political systems, one Bolshevik and dictatorial, and the other pursuing an in-depth process of fundamental democratic reforms.

The six persons have been condemned not for serious penal misdemeanours but for their political beliefs, for their refusal to recognize an impostor, neo-communist and totalitarian regime. That constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The sentence has been pronounced. However, for the so-called judges, there is much more at stake than the mere life and destiny of a group of people. This is an attempt to prove to the world that such regimes do not need international recognition to exist.

Moreover, by pronouncing the verdict, the leaders from Tiraspol intended to prove that they were able to ignore world opinion, easily disregarding numerous appeals and démarches that had been addressed to them by heads of State, the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and other international organizations. At the same time, the recent decision taken at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe at Rome has been ignored.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova observes in good faith the principles of peaceful settlement of the conflict in its eastern districts. Unfortunately, the judicial farce that has taken place in Tiraspol is a painful reminder of the other model of settlement that is imposed on us: offensive, defiant, from a position of force.

The Decree of President Mircea Snegur of 9 December 1993 has declared both the juridical trial in Tiraspol and the sentence null and void. However, the peril of the consequences of that sentence remains real, endangering not only the destiny of the six persons convicted, but also the social and political stability of the country.

Having stated this, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova appeals to all democratic Governments, the United Nations, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the Council of Europe to intervene promptly in order to prevent the execution of the sentence, and to speak out categorically in favour of handing over the political detainees to the constitutional authorities in Chisinau.